

assassins. We will defeat the enemy and win the war on terror.

And the other thing you're doing is to help this new democracy not only survive but to flourish. Laura and myself and Secretary Condi Rice who is with us here—step on over here. We just met with President Karzai. And my message to the people of Afghanistan is—was the following: One, it takes courage to get rid of a tyrant or tyrannical governments and to recognize that the future belongs to democracy. That's not easy work. It's hard to recognize that people ought to be allowed to worship freely and speak their minds freely after living under the grips of a tyrant.

Our other message was, is that the United States doesn't cut and run. When we make a commitment, we keep our commitments. It's in our national interest that the work you're doing here, the work of helping the Afghans develop a democracy—it's in the interests of your children and your grandchildren. Because, you see, democracies yield the peace we all want. History has taught us democracies don't war. You don't run for office in a democracy and say, "Please vote for me; I promise you war." [*Laughter*] You run for office in democracies, and say, "Vote for me; I'll represent your interests. Vote for me; I'll help your young girls go to school or the health care you get improved."

Democracies yield peace, and that's what we want. What's going to happen in Afghanistan is, a neighborhood that has been desperate for light instead of darkness is going to see what's possible when freedom arrives. What's going to happen in Afghanistan, it's going to send a signal not only in the neighborhood but around the world, that freedom is the potential. The United States of America believes that freedom is universal. Freedom is not our gift to the world; freedom is the gift from an Almighty to every single person in this world.

I'm proud of our United States military. Many of you volunteered for service after September the 11th, 2001. You saw that our Nation was attacked, and when the country called upon you, you said, let me serve, let me join in the fight to defeat the terrorists so attacks like that will never occur on our

soil again. And that's what you're doing here in Afghanistan. You're helping to change this part of the world—and change the world with your courage and your sacrifice. I assure you that this Government of yours will not blink; we will not yield. We're on the right course, and the world is going to be a better place because of your service.

So we're here to thank you. I want you to e-mail and call your friends, and more important, your families, and tell them the old Commander in Chief showed up for a little bit—with a message of appreciation not only for you but for your loved ones as well. I ask for God's blessings on you and your mission, God's blessings on our country. Thank you for letting us come by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:37 p.m. in the Clam Shell. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry, USA, commander, Combined Forces Command Afghanistan; Maj. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley, USA, commander, 10th Mountain Division and Combined Joint Task Force 76; and President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan.

### Remarks Following a Meeting With American and Indian Business Leaders in New Delhi, India

March 2, 2006

**Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India.** Mr. President, distinguished journalists, ladies and gentlemen, I've already welcomed President George Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush on this, their first visit to India. I would now like to welcome the U.S. CEOs who have traveled to India for this historic meeting.

The President and I have just concluded our official discussions, and I'm sure he shares my—[*inaudible*—] executive officers. The establishment of this group last year was an important initiative stated by the President—[*inaudible*—] in which the private sectors of our two countries could interact and build a roadmap for promoting cooperation. I would like to thank the two cochairs, Mr. William Harrison and Mr. Ratan Tata, and their colleagues for the excellent work done in relaying the report which they will now present.

I have been briefed on the main recommendations, and I am very happy to say that some of the recommendations are already reflected in the decisions which the President and I have issued today. I will have more to say on other recommendations a little later. I now invite President Bush to share his thoughts and initiate the discussion. You have the floor, sir.

**President Bush.** Well, thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. I want to thank the CEOs for joining us from both India and the United States. Thank you all for coming.

The Prime Minister and I have had some really constructive dialog, starting in Washington, DC, and then here in New Delhi. I would characterize our relationship as warm and results oriented. Warm because he's a humble man who cares deeply about the people of India, and he's a good thinker. He can see beyond the horizon, which is necessary.

I say "results oriented" because it's one thing to shake hands and smile for the cameras; it's another thing to actually deliver results on behalf of our people. I am a firm believer that relations with India are important to the United States. It's important for the people of the United States; it's important for people who want to work in the United States. And to the extent that we are able to achieve mutually beneficial goals, to eliminate barriers, and to hear from people who are actually on the frontlines creating jobs, I think is useful for those of us in government.

So I'm looking forward to hearing some more on this. One of the action steps that we agreed to take last July was to set up this forum. And, Mr. Prime Minister, it's good to see things happening. It's good to see results. And this is a result of an historic meeting, set of meetings.

And so I want to thank you for your hospitality. Thank you all for coming. I'm looking forward to hearing what folks have to say. And once you say it, once we figure out kind of the roadblocks for further development, you have my commitment that we will work to remove those roadblocks.

Thanks for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:38 a.m. in the Hyderabad House. Prime Minister Singh referred to William B. Harrison, Jr., chairman of the board, JP Morgan Chase & Co.; and Ratan N. Tata, chairman, Tata Group. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India and an Exchange With Reporters in New Delhi**

*March 2, 2006*

**Prime Minister Singh.** Shall I start?

**President Bush.** Please.

**Prime Minister Singh.** Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen of the press: President Bush and I have completed very cordial and productive discussions this morning. We reviewed the status of our cooperation, including the agenda that was set on July 18, 2005. The joint statement that will be shared with all of you today contains a number of announcements and initiatives that underline the significant progress in our relationship.

Many of the areas that our cooperation now covers are essential to India's national development. They include energy, agriculture, science and technology, trade and investment, high technology, health, and a clean environment. This is a highly ambitious agenda, one that is befitting our growing strategic partnership. When implemented, they will make a real difference to the lives of our people.

The President and I had an opportunity to review the global situation in our talks. As you're all aware, India and the United States are working together increasingly on global issues. This is not just good for our two countries but also benefits the international community, as we can complement each others' capabilities and share responsibilities. President Bush is admired for his strong position on terrorism. And I was particularly pleased that we agreed on the need to root out terrorism, of which India has been a major victim.

I'm particularly pleased that we have reached an understanding on the implementation of our agreement on civil nuclear cooperation of July 18, 2005. I have conveyed to the President that India has finalized the